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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
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RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-11 UPW-01 RSR-01 074 W
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O R 230836Z AUG 71 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9025

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USDEL FRANCE

UNCLAS SAIGON 13510

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: KY-LE SLATE'S WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT

REF: SAIGON 13468

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS READ BY VICE PRESIDENT NGUYEN CAO KY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 23 WHICH WAS CALLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE KY-LE SLATE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OCTOBER 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. (EMBASSY TRANSLATION.)

2. BEGIN TEXT. PROCLAMATION OF THE NGUYEN CAO KY-TRUONG VINH LE SLATE. DEAR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND COMRADES-IN-ARMS:

3. TODAY, MR. TRUONG VINH LE AND I SOLEMNLY CONFIRM TO YOU THAT IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL AND LEGAL SITUATION, WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE 1971-1975 TERM.

(2) 4. ON AUG. 12, 1971, WE PUBLICLY DENOUNCED THE DEVIOUS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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SCHEMES OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S CAMP AIMED AT ORGANIZING A RIGGED ELECTION. THE CLASSIC CASE WAS THE USE OF THE HIGHEST JUDICIARY ORGAN OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC TO ELIMINATE OUR SLATE FROM THE LIST OF CANDIDATES POSTED FOR THE FIRST TIME. THAT ACTION HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME AND ABROAD AS A ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTION.

5. WE DID NOT OFFICIALLY LODGE ANY COMPLAINT WITH THE SUPREME COURT, REALIZING THAT THE ELCTION HAS BEEN MANIPULATED FROM ITS VERY INCEPTION. PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO USE THE ELECTION AS A MEANS OF CONSOLIDATING HIS POSITION, AND DISEREGARDING THE LAW, THE CONSTITUTION AND THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY.

6. ON AUGUST 20, 1971, GEN. DUONG VAN MINH'S SLATE ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW AND NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. THIS UPSET PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S CALCULATIONS WHICH WERE PART OF HIS SCHEME TO USE A GULLIBLE SLATE TO COVER UP DISHONEST ELECTIONS.

7. ON AUG. 21, 1971, THE SUPREME COURT URGENTLY INCLUDED OUR SLATE IN THE SECOND POSTING DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROMTHE FIRST POSTING AND THAT WE HAD NOT LODGED A PROTEST.

8. AGAIN, THE LAW WAS USED TO SERVE THE POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS OF AN INDIVIDUAL ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES. UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, OF COURSE, THE COMING OCTOBER ELECTIONS DO NOT LIE BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF A COOKED-UP SCHEME.

9. OUR SLATE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS. ANY ARRANGEMENT WOULD ONLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF DECEIVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION. WE WILL NOT INVOLVE OURSELVES IN ANY PLOT. ANY SCHEME WOULD ONLY BE DESIGNED TO SERVE A PURPOSE WHICH ITS AUTHOR WOULD NOT DARE TO ADMIT TO THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE.

10. THE STRUGGLE OF OUR PEOPLE HAS REACHED A TURNING POINT. WE MUST HAVE A NATIONAL LEADER WHO IS EQUAL TO THAT STRUGGLE. THE BASIC REQUIREMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: THAT A NATIONAL LEADER MUST BE CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE IN A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTION.

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AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW. IT IS ONLY IN THIS MANNER THAT A NATIONAL LEADER CAN BE QUALIFIED AND HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO BRING THE PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR THE STRUGGLE AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THE COMING PERIOD WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT AND FULL OF DANGER.

11. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS NECESSARY TO DEFEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE REGIME, AND TO HOLD A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION.

12. THE COUNTRY IS FACING A STALEMATE AND MAY HAVE TO FACE A SERIOUS CRISIS. DARK CLOUDS WARN OF A STORMY SITUATION AHEAD. IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE NATION'S PEOPLE FROM HAVING TO FACE A SHAMEFUL SITUATION IN WHICH THEY WILL HAVE TO WITNESS AN ELECTION IN WHICH ONE PERSON IS BOTH ORGANIZER AND CANDIDATE, AND ESPECIALLY TO AVERT A DARK FUTURE FOR THE NATION, I PERSONALLY AND IN MY QUALIFICATION AS VICE PRESIDENT SINCERELY CALL ON PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU TO ACCEPT, ALONG WITH MYSELF, A SMALL SACRIFICE BEFORE HISTORY.

13. I RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING SOLUTION TO THE PEOPLE AND PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU:

-"EFFECTIVE TODAY, THE PRESIDENT AND I WILL RESIGN."
-"IN REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 56, PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE UPPER HOUSE CHAIRMAN WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THE PRESIDENCY FOR A THREE-MONTH PERIOD TO ORGANIZE NEW ELECTIONS FOR A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

14. WHILE WAITING FOR PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S RESPONSE TO MY SUGGESTION, ON THIS OCCASION OUR SLATE RESPECTFULLY EXPRESSES OUR GRATITUDE TO ALL PEOPLE, FOREMOST THE WAR VETERANS, WHO HAVE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED OUR SLATE. WE VOW TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE COMMON ASPIRATION OF ALL THE PEOPLE AND SERVICEMEN.

15. WITH SINCEREST REGARDS TO THE PEOPLE AND SERVICEMEN,
SAIGON, AUGUST 23, 1971
THE NGUYEN CAO KY-TRUONG VINH LE SLATE

END TEXT.

16. SUMMARY OF KY'S ANSWERS TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS FOLLOW SEPTEL.

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